

Message Text

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COMICEDEFOR FOR LOR-C DET

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, IC
SUBJECT: US AND ICELANDIC COAST GUARD MEETINGS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0357 (DTG 101627Z MAR 78) AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY. MARCH 20 - 21 DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US COAST GUARD TEAM AND ICELANDIC COUNTERPARTS CENTERED ON MUTUAL COOPERATION, TRAINING FOR ICELANDIC COAST GUARD (ICG) MEMBERS, OFFICER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL SYSTEMS. MEETINGS WERE CORDIAL, AND TONE WAS ONE OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR PROFESSIONALISM OF BOTH GROUPS. VISIT OF USCG TEAM SERVED TO REVIVE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD BECOME SOMEWHAT DORMANT IN RECENT YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING TWO DAY VISIT CAPTAIN EDMUND L. COPE, DEPUTY CHIEF, PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND LIEUTENANT FRED A. DICKEY, CHIEF, FOREIGN TRAINING BRANCH, US OCAST GUARD, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER LAWRENCE M. GROSSMAN, MET WITH ICG DIRECTOR, PETUR SIGURDSSON AND OTHER ICG OFFICERS TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. PARTICIPANTS WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCOMPANIED ON MARCH 20 BY LT. M.J. BARRY, USCG, AND ON MARCH 21 BY LTC. JAMES S. GODWIN, US ARMY, BOTH FROM KEFLAVIK NATO BASE.

2. DIRECTOR REQUESTED AND RECEIVED DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS ON ADVANCED TRAINING FOR OFFICERS IN THE FIELDS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) AND OFFICER CANDIDATE/INDOCTRIANTION COURSE. HE ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT TRAINING IN GUNNERY, EXPLOSIVES

HANDLING, AND DIVING; HE WAS INFORMED THAT SUCH COURSES WERE OFFERED BY THE US NAVY, AND CANDIDATES COULD APPLY FOR ADMISSION THROUGH EMBASSY.

3. USCG REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED DIRECTOR ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS AT USCG ACADEMY AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO HAVE A MEMBER OF ICG APPLY FOR ADMISSION. DIRECTOR, WHILE INTERESTED, INDICATED THAT A FOUR-YEAR COURSE MIGHT BE TOO LONG FOR DESIRED END PRODUCT. DIRECTOR DID REACT QUITE POSITIVELY THOUGH TO PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF OFFICERS FOR PERIODS OF ABOUT SIX WEEKS ABOARD VESSELS ENGAGED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK AND ANNOUNCED DURING THE SECOND DAY'S MEETING THAT HE HAD OBTAINED APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FOR SUCH A PROGRAM. CAPT. COPE SUGGESTED THAT THE USCG WOULD PROBABLY SEND AN ENFORCEMENT VESSEL OPERATIONS OFFICER (A LIEUTENANT) AND POSSIBLY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF AN ENFORCEMENT VESSEL AND THAT EMBASSY WILL SERVE AS POINT OF CONTACT IN FURTHERING EXCHANGE. EACH SERVICE WOULD PROVIDE PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO ITS OWN MEMBERS DURING EXCHANGE AND VISITING OFFICERS WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

4. DIRECTOR SIGURDSSON DID NOT ASK FOR ANY DIRECT MATERIAL ASSISTANCE AT ANY TIME DURING TALKS BUT DID REQUEST INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING:
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- A. USCG METHODS FOR HELICOPTER IN-FLIGHT REFUELLING (THE HIFR SYSTEM).
- B. NIGHT VISION DEVICES SELECTED BY THE USCG FOR FLIGHT OPERATIONS--IN-FLIGHT GOGGLES, LOW LIGHT TV, AND FORWARD LOOKING INFRARED RECEIVER (FLIR).
- C. ANY FIXED CAMERA SYSTEMS USED OR ENVISIONED BY THE USCG FOR FIXED WING AIRCRAFT.
- D. USCG AIRCRAFT RADARS.

5. TEAM PROMISED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION THROUGH EMBASSY REYKJAVIK. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR, USCG TEAM VISITED ICG OPERATIONS CENTER, CUTTER "AEGIR", AVIATION OPERATIONS CENTER, AND HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET ICG PERSONNEL. USCG TEAM NOTED THROUGHOUT VISIT THAT EMBASSY REYKJAVIK WOULD SERVE AS A POINT OF CONTACT FOR ANY MATTERS OF CONCERN TO BOTH COAST GUARD SERVICES.

6. THE USCG VISIT CONCLUDED WITH COURTESY CALLS ON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ICELANDIC LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION, HANNES HAFSTEIN. DISCUSSIONS RE PARTICIPATION IN US SAR SCHOOL WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.
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